try and submit their report to Department of Telecom.

O.B.-Number for Telephone Connections

625. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued a large number of O.B. numbers for telephone connections quite in advance in Idgah and Trans-Yamuna Telephone Exchange, New Delhi during the last one year till date;

(b) whether despite considerable lapse of time actual telephone connections have not been provided to a large number of consumers;

(c) whether Government have received many letters–representations from M.Ps. in this context;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the action being taken or proposed to be taken against officials responsible for the delay and by when these connections likely to be provided to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) A large number of OBs issued during the last year have been executed except some cases due to:

(i) Certain areas being technically not feasible where laying of underground cable is in progress.

(ii) Subscribers asking for change of address etc. after issue of OBs.

(c) Yes, Sir. The details are as under:

(i) IDGAH EXCHANGE: Out of 22 letters received from Hon'ble MPs, telephones have been provided in 16 cases. In remaining 6 cases where the area is technically not feasible; efforts are afoot to provide the telephones at the earliest.

(ii) TRANS YAMUNA EXCHANGE: No letters from Hon'ble MPs have been received.

(d) The delay in provision of new telephones has been due to some pockets/areas being technically not feasible; where laying of underground cable is in progress.

(e) the delay in provision of telephone being due to technical reasons; no official can be held responsible.

Provision of telephones will be in phased manner and telephones are likely to be provided progresssively within six months time in Idgah as well as Trans-Yamuna Areas.

Replacement of Franking Machines

626. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a directive to the centre users of the Franking Machines to discard the Existing Franking Repair Machines with effect from 1st February, 1998 and replace them by Electronic version of the machines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the details of the arangements, if any made for supply of new Electronic version of the machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASHTRA): (a) and (b) No. Sir.

The decision of the Government is to phase out mechanical and electro mechanical franking machines. The licences of those machines which have compelted 10 years life are not to be renewed after 31st January, 98 and for others the licences are to be renewed only upto the date or validity of licence already issued, whichever is later. This was done with a view to plugging the leakge of revenue to which the mechanical and electro mechanical franking machines were found to be